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Rod S. Turner, Esq.
HOFFMANN & BARON, LLP
6900 Jericho Turnpike
Syosset, NY 11791

EXAMINER
WALSH, JOHN B

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____ .

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL.** 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) _1-48_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) _1- 5, 11-15, 18-22, 25-29, 37-39 and 42-46_ is/are rejected.

7) ☒ Claim(s) _6-10,16,17,23,24,30-36,40,41,47 and 48_ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on _11 March 2004_ is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _3/11/04_

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) ☐ Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed
> in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for
> patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an
> international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this
> subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United
> States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2.   Claims 1- 5, 11-15, 18-22, 25-29, 37-39 and 42-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as

being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0049741 to Skene et al.

As concerns claim 1, a method of limiting reuse of domain name information, the method

comprising the steps of: requesting domain name information from an authoritative domain name

server (0031-0034); and providing the domain name information to a local domain name server

(0035) in response to the request, the domain name information comprising an allowable usage

limit (0083-0085), the allowable usage limit representing a maximum number of times that the

domain name information may be provided to at least one requestor before validating the domain

name information.

As concerns claim 2, a method of limiting reuse of domain name information as defined

by claim 1, further comprising the steps of: receiving a request for the domain name information

from the at least one requester (112); determining whether the domain name information is

stored in memory (0071; fig. 4); and requesting the domain name information by the local

domain name server from the authoritative domain name server in response to the domain name

information not being stored in memory (0071; fig. 4).

As concerns claim 3, a method of limiting reuse of domain name information as defined by claim 1, further comprising the step of determining whether a time-to-live threshold (0040) associated with the domain name information has expired, the domain name information being requested from the authoritative domain name server in response to the time-to-live threshold being expired.

As concerns claim 4, a method of limiting reuse of domain name information as defined by claim 1, wherein the domain name information comprises a hostname-to-internet protocol address mapping (fig. 4; 202).

As concerns claims 5, 22, 29 and 46, limiting reuse of domain name information as defined by claims 1, 15, 25 and 39, wherein the at least one requestor comprises at least one of a client and a server (112).

As concerns claim 11, a method of limiting reuse of domain name information as defined by claim 1, the method further comprising the steps of: initializing an observed usage counter; and incrementing the observed usage counter to represent the domain name information being provided to the at least one requester (0083-0085).

As concerns claim 12, a method of limiting reuse of domain name information as defined by claim 11, the method further comprises the step of providing a value of the observed usage counter to the authoritative domain name server (fig. 6B, 7).

As concerns claims 13 and 37, a method of limiting reuse of domain name information as defined by claims 1 and 25, wherein the domain name information comprises a hostname-to-internet protocol address mapping (fig. 4; 202), the mapping including at least one hostname mapped to a plurality of internet protocol addresses, the method further comprising the steps of: assigning at least one allowable usage limit to each of the plurality of internet protocol addresses;

and assigning at least one of the plurality of internet protocol addresses to the at least one requestor in accordance with a round-robin manner (fig. 11, 336).

 As concerns claims 14 and 38, limiting reuse of domain name information as defined by claims 1 and 25, wherein the domain name information comprises a hostname-to-internet protocol address mapping (fig. 4; 202), the mapping including at least one hostname mapped to a plurality of internet protocol addresses, the method further comprising the steps of; assigning at least one allowable usage limit (0083-0085) to each of the plurality of internet protocol addresses; and assigning at least one of the plurality of internet protocol addresses probabilistically to the at least one requestor in accordance with a weighting associated with the each of the plurality of internet protocol addresses (fig. 10B).

 As concerns claim 15, a method of limiting reuse of domain name information, the method comprising the steps of: receiving a request for domain name information from a lower-level server (0035); requesting the domain name information by a mid-level server (0032,0034) from an upper-level server (0031,0033; fig. 3E-104) in response to receiving the request from the lower-level server; and providing the domain name information by the mid-level server, the domain name information comprising an allowable usage limit (0083-0085), the allowable usage limit representing a maximum number of times that the domain name information may be provided to at least one requestor before validating the domain name information.

 As concerns claim 18, a method of limiting reuse of domain name information as defined by claim 15, further comprising the steps of: receiving a request for the domain name information from the lower-level server (0035); determining whether the domain name information is stored in memory (0071; fig. 4); and requesting the domain name information by

the mid-level server from the upper-level server in response to the domain name information not

being stored in memory (0071; fig. 4).

As concerns claim 19, a method of limiting reuse of domain name information as defined

by claim 15, further comprising the step of determining whether a time-to-live threshold (0040)

associated with the domain name information has expired, the domain name information being

requested from the upper-level server in response to the time-to-live threshold being expired.

As concerns claims 20, 28 and 44, limiting reuse of domain name information as defined

by claim 15, 25 and 39, wherein the domain name information comprises a hostname-to-internet

protocol address mapping (fig. 4; 202).

As concerns claim 21, a method of limiting reuse of domain name information as defined

by claim 15, wherein the domain name information comprises a time-to-live threshold (0040),

the time-to-live threshold representing a maximum time that the domain name information may

exist before validating the domain name information.

As concerns claim 25, a system for limiting reuse of domain name information, the

system comprising: an authoritative domain name server (106; 0031-0034); a local domain name

server (0035; 110), the local domain name server being operatively coupled to the authoritative

domain name server; and at least one requestor (112), the at least one requestor being

operatively coupled to the local domain name server, the at least one requestor requesting

domain name information from the local domain name server, the local domain name server

requesting domain name information from the authoritative domain name server in response to

the at least one requestor requesting domain name information, the authoritative domain name

server providing the domain name information in response to the local domain name server

requesting domain name information, the domain name information including an allowable

usage limit (0083-0085), the allowable usage limit representing a maximum number of times the

domain name information may be provided to at least one requestor before validating the domain

name information.

As concerns claim 26, a system for limiting reuse of domain name information as defined

by claim 25, wherein the local domain name server determines whether the domain name

information is stored in memory, the domain name information being requested from the

authoritative domain name server in response to the local domain name server determining that

the domain name information is not stored in memory (0071; fig. 4).

As concerns claim 27, a system for limiting reuse of domain name information as defined

by claim 25, the local domain name server determining whether a time-to-live threshold (0040;

fig. 8, 10B) associated with the domain name information has expired, the time-to-live threshold

representing a maximum time that the domain name information may exist before validating the

domain name information, the domain name information being requested from the authoritative

domain name server in response to the time-to-live threshold being expired.

As concerns claim 39, a system for limiting reuse of domain name information, the

system comprising the steps of: an upper-level server (0033,0031;104); a mid-level server

(0034,0032), the mid-level server being operatively coupled to the upper-level server; a lower-

level server (0035), the lower-level server being operatively coupled to the mid-level server, the

mid-level server receiving a request for domain name information from the lower-level server,

the mid-level server requesting the domain name information from the upper-level server in

response to receiving the request from the lower-level server, the mid-level server providing the

domain name information comprising an allowable usage limit (0083-0085) to the lower-level

server, the allowable usage limit representing a maximum number of times that the domain name

information may be provided to at least one requestor before validating the domain name

information.

As concerns claim 42, a system for limiting reuse of domain name information as defined

by claim 39, wherein the mid-level server determines whether the domain name information is

stored in memory in the mid-level server, the domain name information being requested by the

mid-level server from the upper-level server in response to receiving the request from the lower-

level server and the domain name information not being stored in memory (0071; fig. 4).

As concerns claim 43, a system for limiting reuse of domain name information as defined

by claim 39, wherein the mid-level server determines whether a time-to-live threshold (0040;

0049) associated with the domain name information has expired, the domain name information

being requested from the upper-level server in response to the time-to-live threshold being

expired.

As concerns claim 45, a system for limiting reuse of domain name information as defined

by claim 39, wherein the domain name information comprises a time-to-live threshold, the time-

to-live threshold representing a maximum time that the domain name information may exist

before validating the domain name information (0040; 0049).

Allowable Subject Matter

3.   Claims 6-10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30-36, 40, 41, 47 and 48 are objected to as being dependent

upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all

of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

4.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's

disclosure. See PTO-892.

5.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to John B. Walsh whose telephone number is 571-272-7063. The

examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:00-5:30.

        If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on 571-272-3964. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

        Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would

like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated

information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

                                                John B. Walsh
                                                Primary Examiner
                                                Art Unit 2151

/John B. Walsh/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2151